

## EDITORIAL

# An Official Medical Ultrasound Journal for Asia: Near-future Expectations

It is my great honor to be writing this editorial on behalf of myself and the editors from the Chinese Taipei Society of Ultrasound in Medicine (CTSUM), Dr. Por-Tying Hung and Dr. San-Kan Lee. Since the association between the Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (AFSUMB) and CTSUM 6 years ago, the *Journal of Medical Ultrasound (JMU)* has been the premier international publication outlet for medical ultrasound. For this reason, our primary goal will be to maintain and build on its achievement, so that clinical researchers will continue to consider the *JMU* as their first choice for their best work. To attain these goals, we will model ourselves after the *JMU*'s previous Editors-in-Chief Dr. Fon-Jou Hsieh, Dr. Por-Tying Hung and Dr. San-Kan Lee, Regional Editors Dr. Yoshihide Chiba and Dr. Byung-Ihn Choi, and Associate Editors, Dr. Tsung-Hong Chiu, Dr. Fong-Ming Chang, Dr. Pei-Ming Yang, Dr. Chiau-Suong Liao and Dr. Hong-Jen Chiou. The *JMU* has benefited enormously from these past editors' hard work, high standards, objectivity, fair-mindedness, and commitment to furthering the clinical study of medical ultrasound. Currently, there is no strong reason to change the direction of the *JMU*, but that does not mean that we will rest on our laurels. We are committed to advancing the *JMU*'s stature by seeking out and publishing innovative, cutting-edge studies on a broad range of topics, and including more comprehensive issues that are of interest to clinical experts, ultrasound imaging researchers, and residents. This goal is particularly important to us, since diversity of content has always been a hallmark of the *JMU*. The journal's original mission was to publish research reports with an emphasis on clinical aspects. Given the continual addition of more educational and experimental researchers, it is essential for the journal to be more inclusive, yet still maintain the high standards consistent with good science and careful investigation.

To promote manuscript submissions, the editors have already undertaken a number of protocols aimed at increasing submission diversity and to ensure that all manuscripts receive equitable treatment. We first decided to invite several associate editors, well known for their scientific reputation in Asia. We then invited the presidents of the affiliated member societies of AFSUMB, who would also broadly represent expertise of different areas in ultrasound education and research. Dr. Byung-Ihn Choi, the current president of AFSUMB, and I are extremely grateful that respected professors/experts with considerable editorial experience have agreed to serve with us. These esteemed colleagues include Dr. Kouichi Itoh, Dr. Fuminori Moriyasu, Dr. Michiya Natori, Dr. Kirk K. Shung, Dr. Kanu G. Bala, Dr. Chander V. Vanjani and Dr. Chintana C. Wilde. Third, to cover a variety of topics on medical ultrasound, we will invite well-known experts in Asia, mostly from the affiliated member societies, to submit review articles on various hot or educational topics. Additionally, the Editorial Board that we have selected includes prominent scholars whose expertise spans the areas and methodologies we hope to feature in the journal. Lastly, we have begun what will be a series of special sections or issues that will highlight the basic utility and advances that have been under-represented in the journal over the past few years. Among these special topics, urological ultrasound will grow to become an important regular section. Fortunately, Dr. Seung-Hyup Kim, the current Treasurer of AFSUMB and Professor of Radiology, Seoul National University Hospital, has agreed to submit a series of review articles to the *JMU*. Other previously under-represented areas include research on pediatric neurology and peripheral vessels. One of the education sections will be labeled *Pictorial Essay*, modeled after those published in the *American Journal of Roentgenology (AJR)* for many years, intended to provide

clinicians and residents with a succinct and objective update of the specific clinical topic. Another education section will be *The Resident's Corner*, currently under production. We encourage readers to submit their suggestions for future special sections and issues.

With regard to the editorial process, we believe that to maintain a steady flow of strong manuscripts, we need to make the editorial process as efficient and fair as possible. The manuscripts are judged scientifically, yet are intended to be useful to clinicians and residents as well. To encourage more manuscripts from the societies with less academic activities, the editorial board will undertake to be more enthusiastic and responsible for possible editorial modifications, providing constructive comments to make the submitted manuscript more acceptable.

In the coming years, we will see a dramatic growth in the utility of medical ultrasound in Asia's healthcare environment. Improvements in basic ultrasound imaging and some of the most exciting research in ultrasound technology are expected to take place in this particular field. We would like the *JMU* to be at the forefront of publishing the anticipated revolutionary advances in the understanding, management and prevention of diseases in patients.

We also plan to go online within 2 years. Ms. Candy Chen, the managing editor of the *JMU*, will be working on this, and will target increasing the publication frequency of the journal to bimonthly, within 5 years. The web-based manuscript-handling system will eliminate mail delays, and most referees will be responsive to reminders initiated through this system. We are committed to being open to differing theoretical positions and methodological approaches, and to judging manuscripts on objective criteria like methodological soundness, empirical contribution, novelty of ideas and clarity of writing, but not on the basis of a particular viewpoint adopted by the authors.

In summary, we will build on *JMU's* strong legacy as a journal that publishes the best educational, clinical and basic research articles on medical ultrasound. We urge our colleagues to send us their best work, and we hope to see the journal become even stronger in the years ahead.

Yi-Hong Chou, M.D.

Editor-in-Chief

Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology